

2011 Montana Legislature
House Bill #73

Public Comment:

Ed Moeglein

P.O. Box 110

Wolf Creek, Mt. 59648

I'm here today to speak in favor of House Bill #73 because of an unscrupulous licensed general contractor that has cause irreparable harm to my wife and I as well as our home!

We moved here from Alaska and hired a licensed general contractor to build a special adaptive home for a disabled veteran with special needs.

For where we were building, the contractor informed us that there were no building permits required nor any inspections were required to be performed. The contractor told me he could do the electrical and plumbing as well as anyone else and it would save time and money from bringing anyone else up to French Creek Rd. along Little Wolf Creek Rd. outside of Wolf Creek Montana.

We let him go in June of this year after I had another contractor inspect the work that was done and it definitely was not built to code.

I contacted Montana labor and industry and found there were permits required for Plumbing/Mechanical as well as Electrical and I obtained both, and had my home inspected.

With both the plumbing and electrical inspections, we found many thousands of dollars of damages, some we could fix, and some that would require rebuilding my home at great expense.

Many violations were noted that would effect our health and safety as well as the occupancy of our home.

The original contractor has received 2 injunctions now from the state of Montana Labor and Industry for his unlicensed practices with no fines and penalties collected and it is good that this Bill is in committee to become a law, but it doesn't go far enough to deter an unscrupulous contractor from attempting to do this again or from even trying this in the first place!

The contractor has made over \$100,000 on my home and assessing him, fees, penalties and fines up to \$ 5000 for all the violations that occurred in my home would still leave the contractor over \$95,000 and he still would

keep his contractors license!

This Bill is good in what it is attempting to do to protect the consumer and public safety.

I ask that you increases the fines and penalties to a substantial point that an unscrupulous contractor will not only not try such an act again, but deter him from ever trying it in the first place.

If possible, put it in the licensing requirements that a licensed general contractor knows that there are building codes that he needs to meet for the State of Montana and to obtain building permits before building a residential or commercial building any where in the State of Montana.

Thank You for hearing me today,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ed J. Moeglein". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Ed J. Moeglein Disabled Veteran